Report on Markup of H.R.2519

Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1994 (Pub. L. 103-121, approved 10/27/93)

in the

Senate Committee on Appropriations

Thursday, July 22, 1993

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The Senate Appropriations Committee approved legislation [H.R. 2519] providing \$22.96 billion in fiscal 1994 for the Commerce, Justice and State departments and related agencies, up \$260 million from the House's version and \$332 million less than 1993 levels.

The legislation would provide: \$9.42 billion for the Justice Department, a 4.5 percent increase over 1993 levels, including \$431 million for state drug prevention grants, \$25 million for community policing programs, \$1.9 billion for the federal prison system, \$819 million for U.S. attorneys' salaries, and \$2.39 billion for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Under the plan, the State Department would receive \$4.13 billion, a \$242 million decrease from 1993 levels, including \$10 million to revamp its current visa processing system, \$905 million to cover the U.S.'s contribution to the United Nations and other international organizations, \$251 million for United States Information Agency cultural outreach programs, and \$28 million for the so-called Radio/TV MARTI -- which broadcasts American programs to Cuba.

The plan would allocate roughly \$3.4 billion to the Commerce Department, up \$300 million from fiscal 1993, including \$251 million for the International Trade Administration and \$339 million for the Economic Development Administration. The bill also contains \$213 million to guarantee \$3.3 billion worth of Small Business Administration loans.

The Judiciary branch would receive \$2.65 billion, up \$122 million from fiscal 1993, under the plan. The plan would also require the U.S.'s delegation to the United Nations to review the UN's procurement contracting process and determine whether the UN gives U.S. companies a fair shot at these contracts. The bill -- which provides \$860 million for the U.S.'s contribution to the UN and \$44.7 million to cover arrearages in 1994 -- does not provide an advance appropriation to cover fiscal 1995 arrearages until the UN creates an Inspector General office.

The committee approved the measure by a roll call vote of 26 to 0 [Vote 7385] before approving four amendments.

Senator Fritz Hollings, D-S.C., offered an amendment raising the allocation for Commerce's Technology Administration from \$5 million to \$6 million. It was approved by unanimous consent.

Senator J. Bennett Johnston, D-La., offered an amendment providing \$12.5 million for a National Marine Fisheries installation in Lafayette, La. Hollings offered a modification, providing \$6.75 million instead. It was approved by unanimous consent.

Senator Slade Gorton, R-Wash., offered an amendment prohibiting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration from transferring monies from a site in Seattle, Wash. to one in Juneau, Alaska. It was approved by unanimous consent.

Gorton offered another amendment requiring the Justice Department to perform a study detailing federal law enforcement efforts to crack down on drug trafficking in the Yakima Valley region of Washington. It was approved by unanimous consent.

Senator Thad Cochran, R-Miss., offered, then withdrew, a plan to strike \$210 million for the Board for International Broadcasting.

No further amendments were offered.